

V. *Description of a new genus, and some new species,  
of Staphylinidæ from Mexico and Central America.*  
By D. Sharp, M.B.

[Read 7th June, 1876.]

IN this paper I give the descriptions of a few interesting new species of *Staphylinidæ*, which have been added to my collection by several naturalists; a few species were collected by Mr. Salvin during his visit to Central America, but only one of them can be described with advantage; the most interesting species amongst Mr. Salvin's captures was *Leptochirus bicornis*, Fauvel, of which two specimens were found in the Val de Fuego at an elevation of 6,400 feet; this species is the only representative yet brought to light in the New World of a group of *Leptochirus*, which is represented by numerous species in the eastern tropics of the Old World. A small collection sent by Mr. Flohr from the city of Mexico to Mr. Bates proved to contain several novelties, as did also the very small but interesting collection of this family made by Mr. Belt during his residence at Chontales.

*Glenus coxalis*, n. sp. Fulvus, capite thoraceque aureis, nitidis, hoc parce punctato; abdomine nigro, apice late rufo-testaceo. Long. corp. 18 mm.

Mas: coxis posterioribus spinâ elongatâ, leviter curvatâ armatis.

Antennæ with the 3rd joint scarcely so long as the 2nd. Head rather broad and short, of a brilliant golden colour, rather coarsely but not densely punctured, the punctures more sparing near the front and along the middle. Thorax rather small, similar in colour to the head, about as long as broad; the base and hind angles greatly rounded, the sides scarcely sinuate; the sides are only sparingly punctured, and there is a rather broad but not elevated space along the middle, without punctures. Elytra distinctly broader, but scarcely longer than the thorax; of a dark-tawny colour, quite dull, but only obsoletely punctured, and with a scanty golden pubescence. Hind body black,

with the 6th, 7th and apical segments yellow, rather sparingly and not coarsely punctured. Legs tawny, with the coxæ infusate. The middle of the sternum also infusate.

The male has the hind coxæ armed with an elongate spine, projecting backwards and slightly curved outwards; the ventral plate of the 6th segment of the hind body has in the middle, near the base, two small patches of pale pubescence, separated by a narrow shining space, while the hind margin of the following segments has a moderately large excision in the middle.

Panama; sent by Mr. Edwards of San Francisco.

*Obs.*—This is a very distinct species, to be placed at one extremity of the genus, with *G. vestitus* and its allies at the other; the only individual I have seen has lost its antennæ, except the three basal joints.

#### SELMA (n. gen. *Staphylininorum*).

Corpus pubescens.

Antennæ intus subserratæ.

Palpi omnes articulo ultimo dilatato.

Thorax lineis lateralibus haud conjunctis.

Mandibles rather short, sinuate on their inner margin towards the base, but without distinct tooth. Maxillary palpi with the first joint very short, 2nd stout, longer than broad, 3rd a good deal shorter than 2nd, but not quite so thick, 4th longer than any of the others, and a good deal dilated. Labial palpi with the two basal joints short and stout, the 3rd quite as long as the other two together and dilated from the base towards the apex; mentum very short and very broad. Thorax with the side piece broad, and much produced inwardly over the spiracle, which is hence hidden; its lateral margin formed by the upper line, which is a good deal deflexed at the front angle, but only joins the lateral line on the front margin at the side of the neck. Middle coxæ widely separated, and with a wide space between the meso- and meta-sternal processes. Dorsal segments of hind body without curved lines. Front tarsi dilated; front tibiæ also broad and without spines; middle and hind tarsi rather broad and flattened from above.

The peculiar insect for which I propose this generic name has caused me great hesitation as to its affinities. I think on the whole the most probably correct place I can

assign to it is in the neighbourhood of *Plociopterus* and *Brachydirus*, though it is extremely different from those insects in appearance and in the structure of its palpi; I thought it probable at one time that it would prove to be allied to the Eastern *Trichocosmetes* and its neighbours, but the structure of the prothorax proves to be very different from what it is in the oriental forms mentioned, while the points it has in common therewith, such as the subserate antennæ and the narrow neck, are of much less primary importance. Taking all into consideration, it appears to be a very isolated form.

*Selma modesta*, n. sp. Nigra, opaca; dense, subtiliter punctata; antennis apicem versus testaceis. Long. corp. 14 mm.

Antennæ nearly black at the base, becoming paler towards the apex, the last three or four joints nearly entirely yellow; they are 4 mm. in length, and distinctly thickened towards the apex; joints 6—10 with the upper inner angle acute; 3rd joint rather longer than 2nd; 10th scarcely so long as broad. Head short and broad, distinctly narrower than the thorax; the eyes large and convex, so that they only leave a small part at the hind angles unoccupied; the vertex is straight, and the neck scarcely half the width of the head; the upper surface is densely and evenly but not coarsely punctured, quite dull, but with very little pubescence, and has a minute fovea on the middle. Thorax about as long as broad, distinctly narrower than the elytra, the hind angles very indistinct; the surface is extremely densely and rather finely punctured; it is quite dull, and bears a fine, depressed, dark, fuscous pubescence. Scutellum covered with a fine black pubescence. Elytra rather longer than the thorax, black, with an obscure brassy tinge, densely and finely punctured, but the punctuation very indistinct, except towards the humeral angles, where the very fine pubescence is more scanty. Hind body black, with a very indistinct brassy tinge, much narrowed towards the apex, densely and finely punctured, and with a very fine pubescence; the middle of each segment at the base, however, is only very sparingly punctured, so that when extended the hind body looks a little shining along the middle. The legs are black and rather short and stout; the tarsi pitchy; the basal joint of the hind foot broad, and quite as long as the three following together; the tibiæ bear an ashy pubescence.

A single female, found at Chontales, has been given me by Mr. Belt.

*Xanthopygus viridipennis*, n. sp. Niger, nitidus, antennis abdominisque segmentis duobus ultimis testaceis; elytris viridis, vel cyaneo-viridis; abdomine sat crebre punctato. Long. corp. 15—16 mm.

Mas: abdominis segmento 6° ventrali medio lineâ transversâ longe pilosâ, margineque apicali leviter emarginato, segmento 7° apice medio profunde inciso.

Allied to *S. sapphirinus*, Er., but rather narrower, and with longer thorax; the punctuation of the upper surface less dense, and the elytra greenish rather than blue or violet. The antennæ are rather long and slender, entirely yellow. Maxillary palpi longer than in *S. sapphirinus*; labrum pitchy. Head coarsely and irregularly punctured, with a broad impunctate space on the disc, the punctures not very numerous except behind the eyes. Thorax quite as long as broad, rather coarsely and irregularly punctured, the punctures moderately numerous. Elytra slightly longer than the thorax, shining green or greenish-blue, moderately strongly and not closely punctured. The hind body is black, with the two last segments entirely reddish-yellow, its punctuation moderately close and distinct. Legs black; front tarsi ferruginous.

The characters of the male are similar to those of *S. sapphirinus*, but the emargination of the 6th segment is broader and not so deep.

Chontales; Nicaragua.

*Philonthus discretus*, n. sp. Niger, capite thoraceque subvneis; antennis crassiusculis, capite transversim suborbiculato; thorace crebre fortiter punctato, lineâ latâ impunctatâ; elytris abdomineque crebre punctatis. Long. corp. 10—11 mm.

Antennæ black, with the base of the 2nd joint red; rather stout, not thickened at the extremity; 3rd joint as long as 2nd; of 4—10 each is a little shorter than its predecessor; the 10th not quite as long as broad. Head small, a good deal narrower than the thorax, rounded, shorter than broad, bearing numerous deep and rather coarse punctures, which are wanting on a space along the middle. Thorax rather narrower than the elytra, about as long as broad, the sides a little curved and a little

narrowed towards the front, bearing numerous deep punctures, which are wanting on a rather broad space along the middle. Elytra slightly longer than the thorax, closely and rather finely punctured. Hind body evenly, closely and moderately finely punctured. The middle coxæ are contiguous.

In the male the front tarsi are very greatly dilated and furnished beneath with yellowish hairs, and the front tibiæ are broad and short. The ventral plate of the 7th segment of the hind body has a large and elongate excision, the anterior part of which is membranous; the 6th segment has a small rounded excision, and is longitudinally impressed in front of it.

City of Mexico; two male individuals, sent by Mr. Flohr.

*Obs.*—This species has a peculiar appearance, reminding one of the genus *Staphylinus*, and is remarkable by its robust front tibiæ. I do not know of any near ally for it. The labium is small, and the ligula is entire.

*Philonthus Flohri*, n. sp. Niger, capite, thorace, elytris-  
que leviter ænescentibus; antennis gracilibus, articulis  
nullis transversis; thorace lateribus sinuatis, seriebus dor-  
salibus 4-punctatis; elytris thorace longioribus, cum abdo-  
mine crebre punctatis, hoc subtus pubescentiâ pallidâ  
vestito. Long. corp. 13 mm.

Mas: tarsi anterioribus modice dilatatis; abdomine  
segmento 7<sup>o</sup> ventrali apice late minus profunde exciso.

Fem.: tarsi anterioribus simplicibus.

Antennæ rather long and slender, black, scarcely at all thickened towards the extremity, all the joints elongate, even the 10th being longer than broad. Head broad and short, distinctly narrower than the thorax, with a pair of punctures on each side between the eyes, and numerous others about the hind angles. Thorax about as long as broad, the sides very distinctly sinuate; the dorsal series consists of four punctures; there are other punctures along the margins, and also five punctures on each side near the front. Scutellum dull black, rather closely but obsoletely punctured. Elytra rather longer than the thorax, rather closely and distinctly, moderately finely punctured. Hind body very black, distinctly and only moderately closely punctured, and clothed with black hairs; the anterior segments without any trace of carina in the middle at their bases; beneath it is still more sparingly punctured, and the

hairs are pale. The middle coxæ are moderately distant. The tarsi are slender, the basal joint on the hind ones is longer than the two following together.

Five specimens, sent from the neighbourhood of the city of Mexico by Mr. Flohr, in whose honour I have named the species.

*Obs.*—This species is just about the size of our *P. æneus*, but differs therefrom at the first glance by the elongate antennæ.

*Philonthus mexicanus*, n. sp. Niger, capite, thorace, elytrisque leviter ænescentibus, pedibus piceo-testaceis; antennis articulis nullis transversis; capite suborbiculato, thorace angustiore, hoc seriebus dorsalibus 4-punctatis; abdomine nitidulo, parce punctato. Long. corp. 9—10 mm.

Mas: tarsi anterioribus subdilatatis; abdomine segmento 7<sup>o</sup> ventrali apice triangulariter exciso.

Antennæ black, moderately long, scarcely at all thickened towards the extremity; the 10th joint is the shortest, and is slightly longer than broad. Head a good deal narrower than the thorax, shining and nearly black, with a pair of punctures on each side between the eyes, and others near the hind angles. Thorax narrower than the elytra, quite as long as broad, slightly narrowed towards the front; obsoletely sinuate at the sides, with a dorsal series of four punctures on each side the middle, and also with four punctures on each side towards the front, besides the small marginal punctures. Scutellum black, finely and not closely punctured. Elytra about as long as the thorax, rather closely and finely punctured. Hind body black and shining, the segments both above and below only very sparingly punctured, but with rather numerous long setæ. The legs are yellow, but greatly suffused with black, the yellow colour being most distinct on the upper faces of the femora; the middle coxæ are distinctly but not greatly separated.

The male has a rather large triangular notch at the apex of the ventral plate of the 7th segment, but it is about half filled up by a membrane; the front tarsi of this sex are only a little dilated, and in the female they are simple.

Eight individuals, sent from the city of Mexico by Mr. Flohr.

*Obs.*—This species is a little larger than our *P. varius*,



and has the head more orbiculate, and is remarkable by the sparing punctuation of the hind body.

*Tesba Belti*, n. sp. Nigra, nitida, capite supra subopaco, dense rugoso-punctato, subtus cum lateribus parcissime punctato; antennis articulis 4—10 valde transversis. Long. corp. 21 mm.

Upper surface of head covered with dense, extremely coarse and deep punctures; the punctures at the hind angles, however, are only sparing, and at the sides behind the eyes are almost absent; its under surface is black and shining, and bears only a very few rather coarse punctures. The extreme apex of the hind body is distinctly reddish.

Found by Mr. Belt at Chontales, and named after him.

*Obs.*—This species almost exactly resembles *T. laticornis* (Tr. Ent. Soc. 1876, p. 195), except in the sculpture of the head.

*Pæderus Salvini*, n. sp. Apterus; elongatus, niger, antennis palpisque testaceis, elytris viridi-cæruleis thorace multo minoribus. Long. corp. extens. 13—15 mm.

Head broad and large, coarsely and moderately closely punctured, black and shining; antennæ about as long as head and thorax, rather slender, yellow, 3rd joint very long, quite twice as long as 2nd; of 6—11 each is a little shorter than its predecessor, the 11th being markedly shorter than the preceding one. Thorax large and convex, the front and front angles greatly rounded, the sides much narrower towards the base; it is shining black, distinctly but neither coarsely nor closely punctured, with a broad space along the middle impunctate. Scutellum dull black, the exposed portion impunctate. Elytra a good deal shorter and narrower than the thorax, the shoulders very narrow; they are of a greenish or bluish colour, and bear coarse punctures, the interstices of which are very irregular and uneven. The hind body is black, and is rather sparingly but distinctly punctured. The legs are black, with the tarsi pitchy or pitchy-yellow; the front tarsi rather broad, and parallel-sided, distinctly more dilated in the male.

The excision on the apical abdominal segment in the male is rather large and deep, and the segment preceding it is more closely punctured on the middle than elsewhere.

Found at Aceytum, at an elevation of 5,100 feet, by

Osbert Salvin, Esq., in whose honour I have named the species.

*Obs.*—This species is allied to the Columbian *P. rutilicornis*, but is very readily distinguished therefrom by its much shorter head and elytra. In size and form it is extremely similar to the Japanese *P. Poweri*, but its black legs and more punctured upper surface separate it decidedly therefrom.

*Osorius mundus*, n. sp. Niger, nitidus, antennis pedibusque rufis; thorace elytrisque parce punctatis, illo lineâ medio impunctatâ, minus discretâ; abdomine crebre punctato. Long. corp.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

Antennæ red, rather longer than the head, the five terminal joints distinctly thicker than the others. Clypeus almost straight in front. Head with coarse punctures, which near the eyes are elevated, the hind portion is without punctures, as is also a space along the middle. Thorax about as long as broad, greatly narrowed behind, shining black, with sparing, coarse punctures, which are absent from an indistinct space along the middle. Elytra slightly longer than the thorax, shining black, rather coarsely and sparingly punctured. Hind body rather closely punctured with rough punctures. Legs dark red.

Two specimens, sent from the city of Mexico by Mr. Flohr.

*Obs.*—This species is closely allied to the North American *O. latipes*, but is more than twice its size.